

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

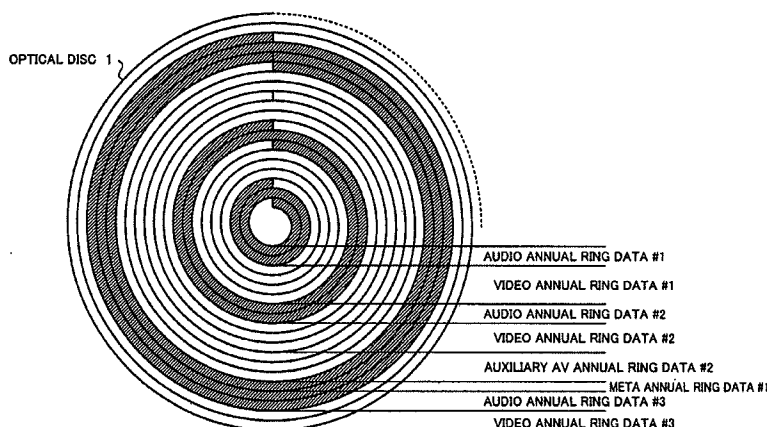
Claims 1-3 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 3 are independent and hereby amended. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT IN SPECIFICATION

Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically at paragraphs [0052] and Fig. 4 of Applicant's corresponding published application. By way of example and not limitation:

[0052] FIG. 4 shows a state of an example in which the annual ring data has been formed on the optical disc 1. **In the example of FIG. 4, audio annual ring data #1, video annual ring data #1, audio annual ring data #2, video annual ring data #2, auxiliary AV annual ring data #1, and time-sequential meta annual ring data #1 are recorded in order from the inner rim side of the optical disc 1.** The annual ring data is handled at such a period. A part of the annual ring data of the next period is further shown as audio annual ring data #3 and video annual ring data #3 on the outer rim side of the time-sequential meta annual ring data #1.

Fig. 4



III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,339,676 B1 to Amada et al. (hereinafter, merely “Amada”) in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,075,920 to Kawamura et al. (hereinafter, merely “Kawamura”) and U.S. Patent Number 5,541,739 to Tanaka (hereinafter, merely “Tanaka”) and U.S. Patent Number 5,589,993 to Naimpally (hereinafter, merely “Naimpally”).

Claims 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Amada in view of Kawamura and Tanaka and Naimpally, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,788,881 B1 to Kuroiwa et al. (hereinafter, merely “Kuroiwa”).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

... wherein annual ring data of said first audio data , annual ring data of said first video data, annual ring data of said low-rate data, and annual ring data of said meta data are recorded in order from an inner rim side of the disc-shaped recording medium... (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, Naimpally relates to a recorder which records motion compensated compressed high definition television signals and yet allows trick-play features such as viewing during fast-forward and reverse.

Applicant submits that neither Amada nor Kawamura nor Tanaka nor Naimpally, taken alone or in combination, would disclose or render predictable the above identified features of claim 1. Specifically, none of the references used as a basis for rejection discloses or renders predictable **“annual ring data of said first audio data, annual ring data of said first video data, annual ring data of said low-rate data, and annual ring data of said meta data are recorded in order from an inner rim side of the disc-shaped recording medium,”** as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action (see page 3) asserts that Amada said first video data, said first audio data, said low-rate data, and said meta data are recorded in continuous areas on the disc-shaped recording medium and are recorded in a particular sequence, and refers to Amada, col. 13, line 63-col.14, line 14, col. 14, lines 52-67, Fig. 1 and Fig. 7, which are reproduced as follows:

Amada, col. 13, line 63-col.14, line 14:

FIG. 9 is a waveform diagram showing an example of timings of the rotation of rotary drum 5 and the digital recording signal SR3. Illustrated at (A), (B) and (C) in FIG. 9 are the timing of the rotary drum 5 and the timings of digital recording signal SR3 in the standard play mode and the long play mode, respectively. At (A), during a period of low level, recording is effected by the magnetic head 2a or 2c and during a period of high level, recording is effected by the magnetic head 2b. As shown, in the case of the standard play mode, a continuous recording signal SR3 is recorded and in the case of the long play mode, a recording signal SR3 which is compressed on time domain to 1/N in synchronism with the rotation of the rotary drum 5 is recorded. In that case, since the transportation speed V of the magnetic tape 6 is controlled to 1/N

of that in the standard play mode, the recording pattern is the same as that in FIG. 4 and consequently, tracks 63a and 63b having substantially the same track pitch $Tp2$ as that in the standard play mode are formed.

Amada, col. 14, lines 52-67:

FIG. 11 is a waveform diagram showing another example of timings of the rotation of rotary drum 5 and the digital recording signal SR3, the timings corresponding to the head arrangement of FIG. 10. As in FIG. 9, there are illustrated the timing of the rotary drum 5 at (A), the timing of digital recording signal SR3 in the standard play mode at (B) and the timing of digital recording signal SR3 in the long play mode at (C), (D). At (A), during a period of low level, recording is effected by the magnetic head 2a or 2c and during a period of high level, recording is effected by the magnetic head 2b. As shown, in the case of the standard play mode, a continuous recording signal SR3 is recorded and in the case of the long play mode, a recording signal SR3 which is compressed on time domain to $1/N$ in synchronism with the rotation of the rotary drum 5 is recorded. The recording pattern in this case is similar to that of FIG. 4.

FIG.1

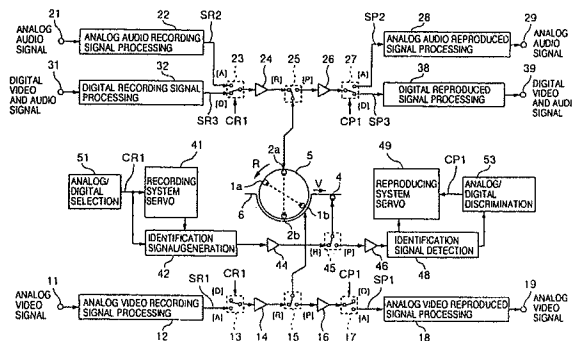
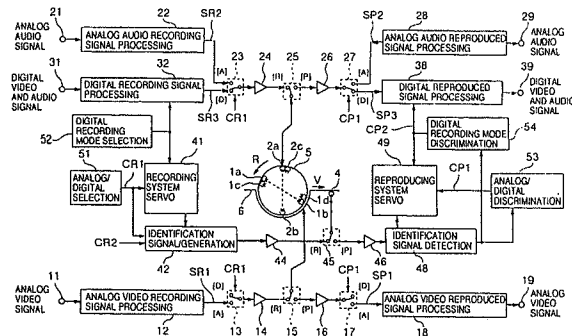


FIG.7



Applicant submits that nothing has been found in Amada that teaches audio annual ring data, video annual ring data, auxiliary AV annual ring data, and time-sequential meta annual ring data are recorded in order from the inner rim side of the optical disc. Thus, Amada fails to disclose or render predictable **“annual ring data of said first audio data, annual ring data of said first video data, annual ring data of said low-rate data, and annual ring data of said meta data are recorded in order from an inner rim side of the disc-shaped recording medium,”** as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, this deficiency of Amada is not cured by the supplemental teaching of Tanaka or Kawamura and Naimpally.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claim 3 is also patentable, and Applicant thus respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections thereto.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Applicant thereby respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of rejections thereto. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Because Applicant maintains that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicant reserves the right to address such comments.

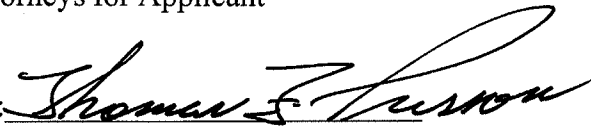
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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